

# HISTORY OF THE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND BOARD-ADMINISTERED TAXES

- 1870 Legislature created State Board of Equalization, consisting of the state controller and two gubernatorial appointees, to deal with property assessment abuses among counties.
- 1879 State Board of Equalization established under the state Constitution to regulate county assessment practices, equalize county assessment ratios, and assess properties of interconnected railroads. Board consisted of four members elected by district and the state controller.\*
- 1911 Constitutional amendment provided for Board assessment of corporation franchise taxes, bank share tax, gross receipts taxes on public service corporations (utilities), and insurance taxes.
- 1923 Motor vehicle fuel (gasoline) tax enacted.
- 1929 Bank and corporation franchise tax enacted. Board would no longer assess the taxes but was designated as the administrative appellate agency.
- 1933 Retail sales tax, motor vehicle transportation license tax, and alcoholic beverage tax enacted. Riley-Stewart Plan enacted assessment of designated public utility properties for local tax purposes.
- 1935 Use tax enacted to provide further revenue and protect California retailers from tax-free competition from out-of-state sellers. Personal income tax enacted with the Board as the administrative appellate agency.
- 1937 Use fuel tax on diesel fuel enacted as a supplement to the gasoline tax. Private railroad car tax enacted.
- 1951 Administration of Itinerant Merchants Act transferred by legislation from the Public Utilities Commission to the Board. This law imposed an annual fee on those who hauled produce across county lines.
- 1955 Constitutional Amendment transferred licensing and control of alcoholic beverages from the Board to a new Alcoholic Beverage Control Department and the appellate function to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Appeals Board. The Board retained taxing functions.
- 1955 Board-administered local sales and use taxes program initiated. All state cities and counties included by 1962.
- 1959 Cigarette tax enacted.
- 1961 Itinerant Merchants law repealed.
- 1963 Subscription television tax enacted.
- \*The Board in its present form was established by article XIII, section 9 of the Constitution of 1879. "As originally ratified, (it) provided that the board should consist of one member from each congressional district in the State, to be elected by the qualified electors of their respective districts at the general election to be held in 1879, whose term of office, after those first elected, should be four years, and that the Controller should be ex officio a member of the board."
- California Blue Book or State Roster –1909

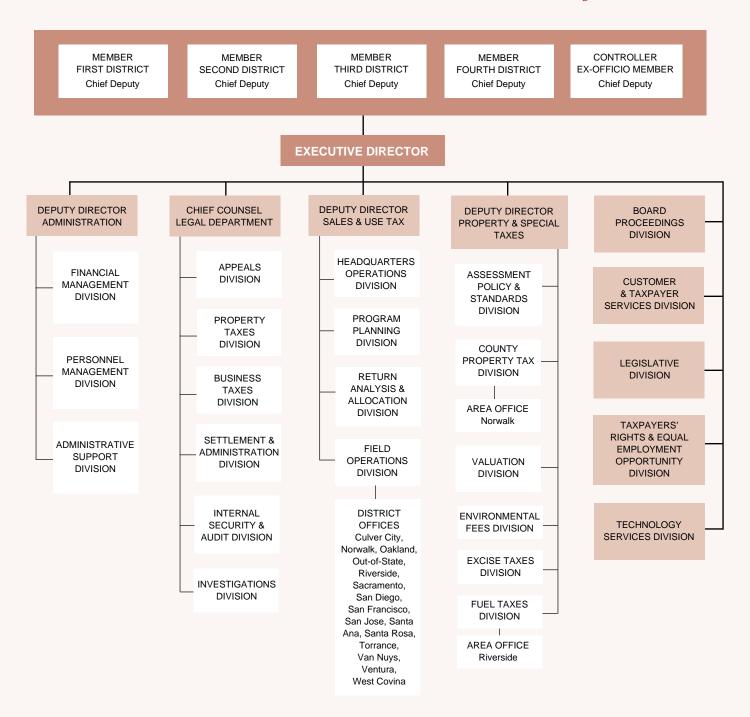
- 1964 Subscription television tax repealed by initiative.
- 1966 Property Tax Assessment Reform Law enacted.

  Mandated certification and training of appraisers,
  surveys of county assessors' offices, and development of property tax rules and regulations. Added an
  appeal procedure at the staff level to the sample
  property appraisal process.
- 1967 Legislation increased the cigarette tax and provided that thirty percent of the receipts be distributed to cities and counties based on local sales tax allocations.
- 1969 Aircraft jet fuel tax enacted.
- 1970 State-administered transit district sales tax program enacted — Bay Area Rapid Transit District and Southern California Rapid Transit District.
- 1973 Motor vehicle transportation license tax repealed.
- 1974 Waxman-Dymally Campaign Disclosure Legislation enacted — provided for audit of campaign statements. Terminated late in 1975 with passage of Proposition 9, Political Reform Act, in November 1974.
- 1975 Electrical energy surcharge enacted.
- 1976 Timber yield tax and Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Law enacted.
- 1977 Litter Control, Recycling, and Resource Recovery Assessment Act enacted.
- 1978 Proposition 13 enacted. Proposition 8 amended Article XIIIA to allow reduction of the full cash value base of real property to reflect substantial damage, destruction, or other factors that cause the value to decline.
- 1979 Litter Control, Recycling, and Resources Recovery Act amended, ending the assessment and allocating funding from the state's general fund.
- 1982 Administration of two hazardous substances taxes assigned to the Board by legislation. Both are imposed on persons who generate hazardous waste and dispose of it in California.
- The Moore Universal Telephone Service Act imposed a tax on certain intrastate telecommunications to subsidize basic telephone service for those who cannot afford it. The Public Utilities Commission determined tax rates, eligibility, and service systems while the Board collected the tax.
- 1987 The Moore Universal Telephone Service Act repealed and reenacted; administration transferred to the Public Utilities Commission.
- 1988 Passage of Proposition 99 in November increased the tax on cigarettes and created a tobacco products tax.

- 1989 Underground storage tank maintenance fee created.
- 1990 Motor vehicle fuel license tax increased five cents per gallon in August due to passage of Proposition 111 in June. Annual hazardous substance tax expired December 31.
- 1991 New environmental fees created: tire recycling; oil spill response, prevention, and maintenance; and oil spill prevention and administration. Sales tax exemption related to certain food products repealed in July 1991, resulting in so-called "Snack Foods" tax. Also repealed were exemptions applicable to bottled water and newspapers and periodicals.
- 1992 California Oil Recycling Enhancement Act enacted. "Snack Tax" and tax on certain periodical subscriptions overturned by voters. Collections ended in February for San Diego County Regional Justice Facility Tax. Monterey County Public Repair and Improvement Authority tax found unconstitutional in September; collections ended September 30.
- 1993 Childhood lead poisoning prevention fee and hazardous spill prevention fee took effect. Voters approved a constitutional amendment making permanent an additional sales and use tax to fund local public safety programs.
- 1994 San Diego County Regional Justice Facility Tax and Monterey Public Repair and Improvement Authority Tax refund programs began. San Diego County sales and use tax rollback/credit program began.
- 1995 Diesel Fuel Tax Law became operative July 1. Use Fuel Tax Law modified to delete diesel fuel. Propane safety inspection and enforcement surcharge took effect. Monterey County sales and use tax rollback/ credit programs began. Santa Clara County Traffic Authority Tax expired March 31. New Santa Clara County Local Transportation Authority found unconstitutional prior to implementation. Hazardous spill prevention fee expired at end of year.
- 1996 California implemented International Fuel Tax
  Agreement. Fresno Metropolitan Projects Authority
  Tax declared unconstitutional; direct refund program
  began. Sales and use tax rate rollbacks ended in San
  Diego and Monterey counties. Legislation modified
  method of allocating local tax on automobile leases.
- 1997 Fresno Metropolitan Projects Authority Tax refund program ended March 31; California Supreme Court upheld childhood lead poisoning prevention fee;

- Santa Cruz County Library Tax and Santa Clara County Transactions and Use Tax went into effect April 1; Santa Cruz County Earthquake Recovery Bond Tax, Tulare County Transactions and Use Tax, and San Benito County General Fund Augmentation expired; propane safety inspection and enforcement surcharge transferred to Public Utilities Commission January 1; oil recycling fee transferred to Integrated Waste Management Board July 1.
- 1998 Napa County Flood Protection Authority Tax went into effect on July 1; Solano County Public Library District Tax, Nevada County Public Library District Tax, and Town of Truckee Road Maintenance District went into effect on October 1. San Benito County Council of Governments tax expired December 31. Legislation authorized counties to levy transactions and use taxes for local library programs; extended the sunset date of the tire recycling fee; and changed local sales tax allocation methods for pooled revenues and sales of jet fuel. Proposition 10 enacted.
- 1999 Proposition 10, which imposed new cigarette and tobacco products taxes, went into effect January 1.
  City of Placerville Public Safety Tax and Fresno County Public Library Tax went into effect April 1.
- 2000 The ballast water management fee went into effect January 1. Four transactions and use taxes went into effect: the City of Clovis Public Safety Transaction and Use Tax, on April 1; the Mariposa County Healthcare Authority district tax and the City of Woodland General Revenue Transactions and Use Tax on July 1; and the Avalon Municipal Hospital and Clinic Transactions and Use Tax on October 1.
- 2001 On January 1, the state sales and use tax rate dropped by 1/4 percent and the natural gas surcharge went into effect. The motor vehicle fuel license tax was repealed effective December 31. Legislation added a number of sales and use tax exemptions for the agricultural industry.
- 2002 On January 1, the state sales and use tax rate increased by ½ percent and the motor vehicle fuel tax went into effect. The Alameda County Transportation Authority Tax expired on March 31, 2002, and was immediately replaced by the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority Tax.

# STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION JANUARY 2003



# PUBLICATIONS OF THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE

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54	Tax Collection Procedures		Special Events <sup>4</sup>		
56	Offers in Compromise	Tax Pay	ments		
58A	How to Inspect and Correct Your Records	75	Interest and Penalty Payments		
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76	Homeowner and Renter Assistance Appeals  Audits <sup>2</sup>	44	Tax Tips for District Taxes		
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81	Franchise and Personal Income Tax Appeals	32	Tax Tips for Sales to Purchasers from Mexico		
Property			(Sales for Resale and Sales for Export) <sup>3</sup>		
8	Private Railroad Car Tax Law	100	Shipping and Delivery Charges <sup>3</sup>		
29	California Property Tax: An Overview	101	Sales Delivered Outside California <sup>3</sup>		
30	Residential Property Assessment Appeals	102	Sales to the US Government <sup>3</sup>		
43	Timber Yield Tax Law	42	Resale Certificate Tips <sup>3</sup>		
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87	Guide to the California Timber Yield Tax	104	Sales to Residents of Other Countries <sup>3</sup>		
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	Instructions for Reporting State-Assessed Property:	109	Are Your Internet Sales Taxable? 3		
	Electric Generation Companies	112	Purchases from Out-of-State Vendors <sup>3</sup>		
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Available in Spanish (#-S); Chinese (#-C); Korean (#-K); and Vietnamese (#-V) Available in Spanish (76-S), Korean (76-K), and Farsi (76-F)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Available in Spanish (32-S, 42-S, 71-S, 74-S, 25-S, 100-S, 101-S, 102-S, 103-S, 104-S, 105-S, 107-S, 108-S, 109-S, 110-S, 111-S, 112-S, 113-S, and 115-S)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Available only in Arabic (33-AC), Armenian (33-AN), German (33-GN), Hindi (33-HI), Hmong (33-HG), Japanese (33-JE), Portuguese (33-PE), Pilipino (33-PO), and Punjabi (33-PI)

 $<sup>^{5}</sup>$  Available in Spanish (73-S); Chinese (73-C); Korean (73-K); Vietnamese (73-V); and Farsi (73-F)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Available in Spanish (22-S), and Korean (22-K)

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Specific Industries (Continued)				
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27	Tax Tips for Drug Stores			
31	Tax Tips for Grocery Stores <sup>2</sup>			
34	Tax Tips for Motor Vehicle Dealers (New & Used)			
35	Tax Tips for Interior Designers and Decorators			
36	Tax Tips for Veterinarians			
40	Tax Tips for the Watercraft Industry			
45	Tax Tips for Hospitals			
47	Tax Tips for Mobilehomes and Factory-Built Housing			
62	Tax Tips for Locksmiths			
64	Tax Tips for Jewelry Stores			
66	Tax Tips for Retail Feed and Farm Supply Stores			
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#### **Special Taxes**

#### **Fuel Taxes**

- 3 Use Fuel Tax Law
- 12 California Use Fuel Tax: A Guide for Vendors and Users
- 84 Use Fuel Permit Requirements
- 6 Motor Vehicle Fuel License Tax Law
- 6A Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Law
- 14 Motor Vehicle Fuel License Tax Regulations
- 19 Diesel Fuel Tax Law
- 50 Guide to the International Fuel Tax Agreement<sup>1</sup>
- 50 A Introduction to the International Fuel Tax Agreement 1
- 49 Underground Storage Tank Maintenance Fee Law
- 88 Underground Storage Tank Fee
- 59 Local Motor Vehicle Fuel Taxation Law

#### **Excise Taxes**

- 4 California Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax Law
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- 93 Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax
- 5 Alcoholic Beverage Tax Law
- 16 Alcoholic Beverage Tax Regulations and Instructions
- 92 Alcoholic Beverage Tax

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60	Hazardous Substances Tax Law		
90	Environmental Fee		
94	Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Fee		

#### **Individual Copies**

#### Laws, Rules, and Regulations

**Property Tax Rules** 

Sales and Use Tax Regulations

Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Regulations

Transactions (Sales) and Use Tax Regulations

Motor Vehicle Fuel License Tax Regulations

Use Fuel Tax Regulations

Alcoholic Beverage Tax Regulations

Cigarette and Tobacco Products Tax Regulations

**Energy Resources Surcharge Regulations** 

Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Regulations

Hearing Procedures of the State Board of Equalization

State of California Sales Tax Reimbursement Schedules

Annual Calendar of Board Meetings

#### **Periodicals**

Annual Report of the State Board of Equalization

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State Assessee Newsletter (published annually)

Taxable Sales in California (published five times a year)

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Environmental Fees Newsletter (published semiannually)

Excise Taxes Newsletter (published semiannually)

Fuel Taxes Newsletter (published semiannually)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Available in Spanish (25-S, 50-S, 50-A-S)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese (31-S, 31-C 31-K, 31-V)

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